

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY
VETERANS' RECOGNITION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Pursuant to Section 19.84, Wis. Stats., a regular meeting of the **Brown County Veterans' Recognition Subcommittee** was held on Tuesday, September 16, 2014 at 5:00 p.m., in Room 201 of the Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

PRESENT: Chair Erickson, Jim Haskins, Sherry Steenbock, Ed Koslowski, Delores Pierce, Duane Pierce, Tracy Rosinski, Jerry Polus, Louise Dahlke, Joe Witkowski

EXCUSED: Rosemary Desisles

****Running Total of Veterans' Certificates: 1651**

1. Call Meeting to Order.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bernie Erickson at 5:00 p.m.

2. Invocation.

3. Approve/Modify Agenda.

Motion made by Jim Haskins, seconded by Sherry Steenbock to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Approve or Modify Minutes of August 19, 2014.

Motion made by Duane Pierce, seconded by Delores Pierce to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Possible discussion/review regarding Veterans Appreciation Day at the Brown County Fair in preparation for 2015.

Louise Dahlke of the Fair Board was in attendance at the meeting. She reported that one meeting of the Fair Board had been held so far following the Fair and was attended by several members of this Subcommittee. They all felt that the event went well. Dahlke read the comments and suggestions in minutes from the last meeting of this Subcommittee and will do what she can do to help facilitate the requests and suggestions. She noted that space will be available next year for the static display similar to this year. Dahlke also stated that next year's Fair will be held a week later than this year; the Fair will begin on August 18, 2015 and the Veterans ceremony can be held on Saturday of that week. She indicated that she would work with this group however she can to help honor their wishes and make their event a success.

With regard to the stage for the band, Erickson stated that he will talk to the City of Green Bay about borrowing their bandstand for use at the Fair at no cost.

Koslowski indicated that the Fair Board has asked to be recognized on the banners displayed at the Fair. Dahlke stated that her understanding was that the Fair Board was requesting to have a poster on the tent indicating that the Fair Board was one of the sponsors of the event. Koslowski stated that he could probably get a banner made up for display that includes the Fair Board as well as other sponsors such as those for the cookies and lemonade as well as Heartland Hospice and any other sponsors that would carry over from year to year. Koslowski felt that a banner could be hung below the larger banner or the sponsors could be listed on a board that could be displayed on an easel near the entrance to the tent. Koslowski also stated that he would like to see a few members stay behind after the event next year to pick up garbage and clean the area up a little bit.

Polus asked the Subcommittee to think of their preference for a band for next year's event. If the Subcommittee was interested in the Air Force Band or Navy Band, Polus felt that now would be a good time to contact them. Polus noted that there is no charge for the Air Force Band, but the Navy Band would charge for performing. Although he did not know their availability, he felt that making an early request would present the best opportunity to reserve one of these bands. Haskins stated that although the band from this year's event was very good, it might be nice to have a band with military ties at next year's event. Rosinski stated that Heartland Hospice has offered to sponsor the band again for next year's event. It was also noted that this year's band, Monterey Trail, has also stated that they would be interested in performing at next year's event.

The topic of what group to honor at next year's event was also discussed and it was the consensus that female veterans will be honored. County Board staff can make a certificate similar to what was done this year for distribution to female veterans; however, this will be discussed in greater detail closer to next year's event.

6. **Report from Committee Members Present (Erickson, Desisles, Haskins, Koslowski, Maino, Pierce, Steenbock, Rosinski & Witkowski).**

-Erickson reported that there is a County Board member who is interested in sitting on this Subcommittee. He stated that although this person has never served in the military, he is very dedicated and a real backer of the military. Erickson was looking for the Subcommittee's approval before inviting this Supervisor to attend the next meeting. The Subcommittee was in agreement that Erickson should invite him to the next meeting to see if he likes it.

The other item Erickson brought up was the budget as the County is entering into the annual budget process. Polus explained the budget process to the group and noted that his budget has not changed from last year and he did not expect the County Executive to cut anything from the budget.

-Haskins shared a letter he had seen in the newspaper that thanked area merchants for providing discounts to veterans, however, the letter went on to criticize the State of Wisconsin for charging a \$14 fee for issuance of a license with veterans status on it. Haskins continued that he had also read an article that stated that there have been more Medal of Honor recipients named by President Obama than by any other President.

-Koslowski stated that he has looked into having shirts embroidered with the logo of this Subcommittee to be worn at different events, including the Veterans Day event at the VFW. He stated that currently there is no recognition of the group and he felt that it was important for people to know who the Subcommittee members were. He found someone who can do the embroidery for \$8 per shirt, but whoever wants one would have to supply the shirt. He will gather more specific information on this and bring it back at the next meeting. Steenbock stated that she felt this was a good idea, although she noted that she does announce that the Veterans Day Event is sponsored by this Subcommittee. Erickson suggested that a box of generic business cards be made up for the Subcommittee as well. Pierce noted that what Rolling Thunder does is get a box of generic business cards that includes blanks for specific members to fill in their own contact information.

-Pierce invited and encouraged all to attend the annual POW/MIA candlelight ceremony at the POW flag at the Courthouse this Friday at 7:00 p.m. He noted that September is POW/MIA Month and the third Friday of every September has been designated as POW/MIA Day.

-Steenbock reported that 30 new certificates had been mailed out this month. She has several others pending that she needs more information for.

With regard to Veterans Day, Steenbock provided the Subcommittee with the lists of merchants and businesses that have provided discounts and offers in the past and asked

members to contact their designated businesses to confirm what offers would be available this year. She asked everyone to get the information with regard to deals and discounts to her at the next meeting if possible as she has to get this information to the newspapers for publication. She also indicated that if anyone was willing to contact any of the businesses that she typically contacted, it would be very much appreciated. Witkowski stated that he would be happy to work on part of Steenbock's list as did several other members. Steenbock continued that if anyone could think of any new businesses that may wish to make offers that would be great. She realizes that those who attend the radio show benefit by winning prizes, but she felt that offers of discounts at businesses reach more veterans than just those who attend the radio show. Rosinski asked for a copy of the letter that Steenbock sends out regarding Veterans Day and Steenbock will provide her with this.

-Rosinski reminded those in attendance of the Roselles veterans event which will be held on September 17. She indicated that Heartland Hospice had purchased two tables at the event for staff and some patients to attend but they still have five chairs open. Rosinski invited members of this Subcommittee to attend if they desired and asked that anyone interested contact her.

Rosinski also wanted to know if this Subcommittee ever does anything to honor Native American Veterans. Polus indicated that he had recently gone to Oneida and presented Korean War veterans certificates to those eligible. Erickson felt that Native American Veterans might be a good group to honor at the Fair event in 2016. Rosinski stated that she was aware of research that shows the need to honor Native American veterans and how they are often missed, especially female Native American Veterans. In response to this, Pierce stated that every year during the third week in May the Menominee Indians do an amazing veterans pow wow near Keshena. Koslowski also indicated that he would reach out to Oneida to see if their veterans would like to be part of next year's Fair event.

Rosinski also reminded the Subcommittee of the *Peace At Last* program that will be held next week with author Deborah Grassman at the Hilton Garden Inn. Although the registration deadline has passed, Rosinski indicated that anyone who still wanted to attend would be able to.

Rosinski concluded her report by indicating that the theme of the December 9 high school basketball game between East and Preble will be *United We Stand* and will honor vets. She indicated that the game will be held at East High School and she will provide more information as the event gets closer. This will be a recognition event and not a fundraising event.

-Witkowski did not have anything to report.

7. **Report from CVSO Jerry Polus.**

Polus reported that he is continuing to work with Milwaukee County on the Purple Heart Pass program. This program was introduced by Milwaukee County last January and allows recipients of the Purple Heart and a guest to attend various venues in the County at no charge. County Executive Troy Streckenbach wanted to start a similar program in Brown County and it was decided that Brown County would piggyback with Milwaukee County and include venues such as the NEW Zoo, Neville Public Museum, Brown County Golf Course and Botanical Gardens as well as Green Bay Gamblers, Green Bay Blizzard and the Packers Hall of Fame. Polus hoped to have the details of this program finalized in the next several weeks and then would announce the program and provide sign up information to those eligible to participate. Polus estimated that there are about 500 Purple Heart recipients in Brown County.

8. **Comments from Carl Soderburg.**

Soderburg was not in attendance and therefore there was no report.

9. **Such Other Matters as Authorized By Law.**

None.

10. **Adjourn.**

Motion made by Jim Haskins, seconded by Duane Pierce to adjourn at 5:50 p.m. Vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio
Recording Secretary